

## Committee of the Whole Report

For the Meeting of June 11, 2020

To: Committee of the Whole

Date: June 4, 2020

From: Susanne Thompson, Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer

Subject: Proposed Adjustments to Parking Fees

## RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Extend the reduced parking fees as follows:
  - a. Reduced rates in all parkades:
    - i. Daily rate \$1 per hour with the 1<sup>st</sup> hour free
    - ii. Monthly rate \$85
    - iii. Daily rate maximum of \$5 in all parkades excluding the Yates Street Parkade, which would have a maximum of \$9 per day
  - b. Reduced on-street metered rates:
    - i. In the 90 minute zone \$2 per hour, and reinstate the time limit to 90 minutes
    - ii. All other zones \$1 per hour, with no time limits
  - c. Reduced parking lot rates \$1 per hour with a \$5 daily maximum
  - d. Suspend enforcement of unmetered time-limited zones, except for 30 minute zones
- 2. Direct staff to report back as soon as parking capacity becomes a challenge with proposed policy changes for Council's consideration.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On May 14, 2020 Council extended reduced parking fees until June 15, 2020 and directed staff to report back at the June 11, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting on the impacts of that policy.

The rate policy in effect now and until June 15 is as follows:

- 1. Reduced rates in all parkades:
  - a. Daily rate \$1 per hour to a maximum of \$5, with the 1<sup>st</sup> hour free
  - b. Monthly rate \$85
- 2. Reduced on-street metered rates in all zones \$1 per hour, with no time limits
- 3. Reduced parking lot rates \$1 per hour with a \$5 daily maximum
- 4. Suspend enforcement of unmetered time-limited zones, except for 30 minute zones

Over the last several weeks, utilization of parking spaces have experienced a steady increase, although not evenly throughout the system. Overall, within parkades, utilization is at approximately 40% of last year's transaction volumes, with last week seeing an average increase of 20% (300 transactions) from the week prior. There is still a large capacity within the parkades, however, usage at the Yates Street Parkade has increased significantly more than other parkades resulting in line-

ups to exit at the end of the day. Broughton Parkade, on the other hand, has the lowest usage compared to 'normal' at only about 27% of last year's transaction volumes. Therefore, it is recommended that the maximum of \$5 per day be removed from the Yates Street Parkade, to shift longer term usage to the other parkades. The hourly rate is recommended to remain at \$1 per hour, resulting in a daily maximum of \$9 at the Yates Street Parkade. No other rate adjustments are recommended at this time due to the large available capacity within the parkades.

As of last week, on-street use climbed to 44% of last year's transaction volumes, with the beginning of this week reaching 50%. However, the usage is not evenly distributed throughout all metered areas and the 90 minute metered spaces reached 85% of 'normal' use last week indicating some capacity challenges. In the 90 minute zones, the majority (55%) of transactions were 90 minutes or shorter, 38% of transactions were between 90 minutes and 5 hours, and 7% of transactions greater than 5 hours. However, important to note is that although usage greater than 5 hours is a smaller share of total transactions, that usage is 26% of the total spaces, which reduces the capacity for short-term turnover. Therefore, it is recommended that, in the 90-minute zone, the hourly rate be increased to \$2 per hour and that the 90-minute time limit be re-instated. This zone is surrounded by the City's five parkades, which have capacity to support longer-term parking needs.

Should Council wish to extend the reduced rates beyond June 15, 2020, staff recommend that reduced rates be extended until capacity becomes a challenge, at which time recommended adjustments would be brought to Council for consideration. Staff do not recommend setting a specific date for a report back, and instead align the report back with a 'trigger' event related to parking system capacity.

Respectfully submitted,

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Susanne Thompson Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer

Date:

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:

List of Attachments: Appendix A – Map of Metered Parking Zones with Recommended Rates and Time Limits